St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/
St Mary's Parish: http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/
Holy Spirit Parish: https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/

Bulletin Number 10: Friday 20 November 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday as part of Anti-Bullying Week, six of our Year 6 SANCTA Squad led a thoughtful and engaging celebration of the word around this year's theme, *Break the Silence*. Through Scripture, reflection and discussion, we explored Jesus' teaching in the Parable of the Good Samaritan and considered how we can show compassion, courage and kindness when we see others being hurt or excluded. The children reflected on the importance of speaking out, seeking help from trusted adults, standing alongside those who experience bullying and refusing to join in with unkind behaviour. Linking our reflections to our SANCTA values, we were reminded that everyone is precious in God's eyes and deserves to feel safe, valued and included. Our additional mission was for every child to sign the 'Breaking the Silence' pledge, making a personal commitment to help create a school where everyone feels welcome, respected and safe. We concluded by taking a collective stand against bullying and promising to put our words into action. Together, we can break the silence, choose kindness and make a difference.

WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed here. Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word with your children.

CHILDREN IN NEED



A huge well done to our wonderful Nursery children for their fantastic enthusiasm and generosity in supporting Children in Need 2026! Through their brilliant Pudsey Bear biscuit-making and sale, they raised an amazing £60 for this very worthwhile cause. The children thoroughly enjoyed decorating their biscuits and proudly sharing their creations with parents at the end of the day. A heartfelt thank you to all the families who supported the initiative and helped make it such a success. It is lovely to see our youngest children learning the importance of helping others and making a difference, putting our SANCTA values of Support, Nurture and Achieve into action. We are incredibly proud of them all!

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

A final reminder that school photographs will be held next **Tuesday, 24 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CAROL SERVICE



The children of Years Three, Four, Five and Six have been invited to sing at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Marple Carol Service on **Sunday 13 December 2026 at 16:00**. If you would like your child to participate, please complete this form by Monday 24 November so we can prepare the children for the performance. Thank you. Parents will need to stay with their child for the duration of the service. The service is expected to last about an hour, with congregational carols, musical performances and readings. The children will perform two carols during the service. We look forward to participating in this Holy Spirit parish event in our preparations for the season of Christmas.

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH – CHRISTMAS DAY NATIVITY



Parishioners are looking forward to bringing the Christmas story to life at Holy Spirit Church on Christmas Day! They would love as many children as possible to get involved in this year's Nativity Play. If your child would like to take part, please message Claire Tognarelli to let her know on 07857940044. Rehearsals will begin shortly and usually take place after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on the first three Sundays in December, lasting approximately 30 minutes each. It is always great fun for the children and a real joy for the whole congregation to see them share the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. Everyone is welcome – we would love to see lots of children taking part!

MEDICAL NEEDS & MEDICATION



If your child requires medication during the school day, please remember that we can only administer medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor or non-medical presciber such as a pharmacist. This means we are unable to give over-the-counter medications, such as Calpol, unless they are accompanied by a prescription. Children should also not bring throat sweets, ointments or any other medication to self-administer in school. For safety, all medicines must be handed in at the school office, where they will be logged and the necessary forms completed. Staff are required to check prescription details, so please ensure that all medication is sent in its original packaging. For pupils with long-term medical needs, including allergies or underlying health conditions, we work closely with healthcare professionals to create individual care plans. Our staff receive appropriate training, including in anaphylaxis, and we are always here to help. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medical needs, please speak to Mrs Major or Mrs Towell, who will be happy to support you.

SHOPPING SCAMS



Every year hundreds of thousands of people here in the UK fall victim to fraud when buying something online. With Black Friday and Christmas sales rapidly approaching, fraud and scams will be significantly on the increase. GetSafeOnline has a plethora of information to help with this such as:

- Information on purchase scams **HERE**.
- Online buying tips **HERE**.
- Scam website checker **HERE**.

Please also see the attached poster from Greater Manchester Police regarding fraud protection.

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS – ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



This week has been Anti-bullying Week. We have had assemblies and PSHE sessions on this important theme and what the children can do if they are aware of any bullying incidents in school or online. Remember safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it's what we all do together to safeguard our children.

What is bullying? Bullying is any persistent behaviour that is intended to hurt someone. It can happen anywhere. Examples of bullying include name-calling, making threats, being violent or aggressive, spreading rumours and undermining, humiliating, excluding or pressuring someone.

While lots of young people experience bullying, it is an incredibly difficult thing to go through and can have a huge effect on your child's mental health and wellbeing. As a parent, it can also feel very challenging and worrying. The important thing to remember is that it is possible for your child to get through it and feel okay again, and that there are practical steps you can take to address the bullying and its consequences.

Young Minds have lots of advice and guidance for parents please see their website for further details.

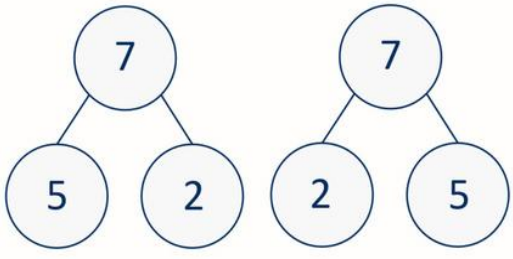
Bullying falls under the category or Child on Child abuse. Please see the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for further information. In our Behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy it outlines how school deals with reports of Bullying/Child on Child abuse.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: A REMINDER FOR PARENTS/CARERS



At St Mary's, we greatly value positive partnerships with our families and recognise the importance of clear, effective communication. As a reminder, *all emails intended for class teachers should be sent via the school office*, using enquiries@mmb.srscmat.co.uk, rather than directly to teachers' individual email addresses. Messages will then be passed on to the appropriate member of staff. Alternatively, you are welcome to speak briefly to your child's teacher at home time, who can arrange a follow-up conversation if needed. We aim to acknowledge emails within two school days and respond fully, or arrange a meeting or telephone call where appropriate, as soon as practically possible at a mutually convenient time. Please remember that staff are busy supporting children during the school day, and non-urgent emails will not be responded to during evenings, weekends or school holidays. For urgent enquiries or safeguarding concerns, please contact the school office and ask to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or email safeguarding@mmb.srscmat.co.uk. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us maintain clear and effective home–school communication.

MATHS HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES



The part-whole model is a way of representing the relationship between a 'whole' and the 'parts' that make the whole. The visual representation used early on when students learn about the part whole model is known as a cherry diagram - shown below - but a bar model is used sometimes too. Being able to 'break up' numbers into different parts is crucial for later understanding of number. You could draw out your own part-whole models at home or even create one using paper plates and lolly sticks. Pupils may use cubes or other resources before using numbers.

HOME ALONE AT THE REGENT CINEMA



Get into the festive spirit with a special screening of the much-loved Christmas classic, *Home Alone*, at Marple's Regent Cinema on Saturday 28th November at 10:00am. Bring along family and friends for a morning of Christmas fun and nostalgia on the big screen. All funds raised will go towards supporting vulnerable children and families in Uganda, making this a wonderful opportunity to spread some festive joy while supporting a very worthwhile cause. All children's tickets include a festive goody bag, and seats will be allocated on arrival. For further information about the event and the charity's work, please visit www.reach-children-uganda.org.uk. Please see the attached poster.

PTA NEWS - The 2026 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 27 November – 3:30pm-5:00pm.



A huge thank you to all our parents and children for the fantastic donations brought into school today for our Christmas Fair. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated! This week each class has been collecting for the bottle tombola, and we will announce the winning class in Monday's assembly. The class that has brought in the most donations will be rewarded with an extra playtime! Last week's winning class was Y6. **But the challenge isn't over yet! We would love every class to get involved and help make this year's Christmas Fair a huge success.** Please continue to support the friendly class competition by bringing in donations one last time…

- **Friday 27th November: Chocolates (the day of the Christmas Fair!)**

Every donation, however big or small, makes a difference. So please do get involved, encourage your child to take part and help your class go for the win! Your generosity will help us make this year's Christmas Fair a wonderful event for our whole school family! Thank you for your continued support!

WREATH MAKING



We are running our Festive Wreath making class - this will be run by the fabulous Zoe-of the Marple Flower House on **Sunday 29 November at 4:00pm** at Marple Scout Hut. The cost is £25, and this includes all materials and a glass of fizz/mulled wine/soft drink/ tea/coffee etc. All welcome. Tickets and further details are now available on the PTA website.

THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD…KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event *Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in* ***bold****.*
21 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:15am-12:15pm.
21 November	Parish Christmas Fair – St Mary's, New Mills 10:00-1:00pm.
23 November	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:40pm. All welcome.
24 November	School Photos.
27 November	PTA School Christmas Fair. 3:30-5:30pm. All welcome.
30 November	Advent Service 2:40pm. All welcome.
9 December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm.
10 December	Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Romiley Forum. Y1-Y6.
13 December	Carol Service at Holy Spirit Church, Marple at 4:00pm. All welcome.
16 December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm
17 December	Christmas Dinner.
21 December	Carol Service 1:30pm-2:15pm in the school hall. All welcome.
21 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
4 January	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Please come along and support our fabulous Christmas Fair next Friday and the parish Christmas Fair tomorrow in New Mills. Mr John Nish.